

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 15 and 16 without prejudice and substitute for corresponding pending claims the claims as shown rewritten below with amendments effected therein. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

- Sub 91*
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1. (Amended) A flexible resin boot, comprising:

structure including a first port and a second port that are connected with each other via a bellows therebetween, said structure being molded from a molding material comprising a mixture of a thermoplastic elastomer resin and mineral oil.

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9. (Twice Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 27, wherein the aromatic content of said mineral oil is from 0 to 10 %.

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10. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein said mixture includes at most 5 parts by weight of the mineral oil to 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic elastomer resin.

11. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a number-average molecular weight of from 200 to 2000.

12. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a weight-average molecular weight of from 100 to 2000.

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cont'd

13. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a Z-average molecular weight of from 200 to 3000.

14. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a kinematic viscosity of from 100 to 1000 mm²/sec(25°C) as determined by measurement with a B-type viscometer.

17. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein a degree of swelling of the thermoplastic elastomer resin in the mineral oil is at most 8 % by volume.

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18. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein a degree of swelling of the thermoplastic elastomer resin in the mineral oil is at most 6 % by weight.

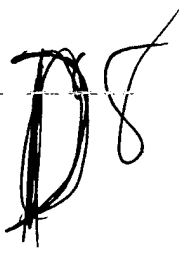
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26. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein a paraffin content of the mineral oil is from 60 to 78 %, and a naphthene content of the mineral oil is from 20 to 35 %.

Please add the following new claims:

--27. A flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein an aromatic content of said mineral oil is not greater than 13 %.

28. A resin boot, comprising:

 structure including a first port and a second port connected with each other via a bellows therebetween, said structure being comprised of a flexible material containing a thermoplastic elastomer resin and mineral oil, an aromatic content of said mineral oil being not greater than 13 %.--